

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7835

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS WITH US AIRCRAFT COMPANIES

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF AT AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 11 RECEPTION FOR SECRETARY BRINEGAR, FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION COL. GEN.KATRICH MAINTAINED THAT SOVIETS WERE ENTIRELY SERIOUS IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WITH US AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS FOR PURCHASE OF WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT. KATRICH DENIED THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE RELUCTANT FOR REASONS OF PRESTIGE USE US-MADE AIRCRAFT ON AEROFLOT ROUTES AND ADDED THAT FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR PURCHASE OF "SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER" OF PLANES WERE AVAILABLE. KATRICH BRUSHED ASIDE EMBOFF'S QUESTION AS TO NEED FOR CREDITS TO FINANCE SALE OF AIRCRAFT, BUT ADDED THAT ESSENTIAL ASPECT OF DEAL FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW WAS US WILLINGNESS PROVIDE USSR WITH PLANT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT AND ADVANCED ENGINES. (COMMENT: MINISTRY OF AVIATION INDUSTRY HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN US MACHINE TOOL EXHIBITION CURRENTLY IN MOSCOW. FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER S. I. KADYSHEV SCHEDULED MEET WITH CINCINNATI MILACORN OFFICIALS APRIL 12 AT EXHIBITION FOR DISCUSSIONS. END COMMENT)

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, KATRICH ALSO
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STRESSED SOVIET INTEREST IN ACQUIRING PLANT FOR CONSTRUCTION

OF AIRCRAFT "ON COOPERATIVE BASIS" WITH US. IN RESPONSE, AMBASSADOR SAID US FIRMS WERE INTERESTED IN SELLING FINISHED AIRPLANES AND HE NOTED POSSIBILITIES OF US SALE OF LICENSES; HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT US ASSISTANCE IN CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLANT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE.

4. KATRICH AND OTHER CIVIL AIR MINISTRY OFFICIALS AT RECEPTION INDICATED THAT SOVIETS SEE LONG-HAUL INTERNAL ROUTES (MOSCOW-KHABAROVSK, MOSCOW-NOVOSIBIRSK, ETC.) AS BEST SUITED FOR USE OF US-MADE WIDE-BODIED AIRCRAFT. KATRICH SAID HE PERSONALLY DID NOT BELIEVE AEROFLOT WOULD NEED SUCH AIRCRAFT FOR HIGH-DENSITY SHORT HAULS SUCH AS MOSCOW-LENINGRAD, ON WHICH AEROFLOT CURRENTLY PLANNING USE IL-86.

5. KATRICH ALSO ADVISED THAT DELEGATION FROM BOEING CURRENTLY IN MOSCOW. BOEING DELEGATION HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT GROUP INCLUDES 13 MEMBERS OF WHOM 12 VISITED VORONEZH PLANT APRIL 12. ACCORDING TO BOEING CONSULTANT CHORINE, DISCUSSIONS HAVE NOT REACHED FINAL STAGES AND BOEING PRESIDENT WILSON MAY VISIT MOSCOW TO PUSH TALKS TOWARD AGREEMENT IN MID-JUNE.
STOESSEL

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